

Abstract for Educational Workshop held in Monroe County New York, August 22, 2000

Integrated Pest Management Field Day: Focus on Diagnosis

Education Day Program results based on participants completed the evaluation forms.

Since accurate diagnosis is the first step in IPM, improving diagnostic and scouting skills in landscape situations were the key objectives of this project. This was a regional day-long workshop. It was held in the meeting facilities and on the extensively planted grounds of Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua NY. The program began with formal presentations. This was followed by hands-on field activities, such as scouting, which were conducted in the landscapes of Sonnenberg. Insects, diseases and cultural problems were viewed in the situations where they naturally occur. Pest management options were discussed both in formal presentations and in the field.

A total of 67 people attended this workshop. This project was successful in reaching the targeted audience with 83% describing themselves as professionals from commercial landscape or lawn companies

The evaluations indicated that the participants walked away with practical knowledge to apply in their workplace. The speakers emphasized the concept of thresholds. Apparently this concept was successfully communicated as one participant's response to the open-ended question in the evaluation: "*One useful item I learned about that I would use on my job is...*" "Sometimes treatment of an insect pest or disease is not necessary." This summed up the feelings of many in attendance.

Some comments regarding educational session follows:

- "Excellent, practical and relevant."
- "It was good to learn about the thought process in diagnosis."
- "I learned some new things about common diseases."

The following comments were in response to the prompt: "*One useful item I learned about that I would use on my job is:*"

- "Actual insects on growing plants."
- "Sometimes treatment of an insect pest or disease is not necessary."
- "Learned whether or not to control for insects is necessary. (Or just leave it alone- i.e. be conservative.)"
- "Identification of diseases and diagnosis of cultural problems."
- "Scouting cultural & disease problems to answer customer questions."
- "How to look for insects and what to do about them- and how to get certified."

The following evaluation remarks were to the prompt of: "*Additional Comments*":

- "Local seminars seem to be more relevant than Cornell sited seminars. Please more."
- "Hope you have another one next year."

Final Report

Type of Project: Educational Workshop

Title: Integrated Pest Management Field Day: Focus on Diagnosis

Location: Monroe County

Project Leaders: Brian Eshenaur, Sharon Rosenblum

Collaborators:

Monroe Horticulture Staff, Jerry Bond, Nancy Schewenzer, Elizabeth Berekeley and Pam Hyman, The Genesee Finger Lakes Landscape and Nursery Association, Staff from the New York State IPM Program, and Cornell based faculty and staff.

Objectives:

The objective of this project was to promote integrated pest control strategies to individuals responsible for Landscape and turfgrass maintenance. This program was promoted both to individuals working in the public and private sectors. Since accurate diagnosis is the first step in IPM, improving the diagnostic skills and scouting in landscape situations were the key objectives of this project. In addition, familiarity with the diagnostic process and the availability of assistance through diagnostic labs was emphasized.

Methods:

Extensive mailing lists of practitioners in the green industry were used in order to notify participants of this workshop. This was a regional day-long workshop. It was held in the meeting facilities, and on the extensively planted grounds of Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua, NY. The program began with formal presentations in the carriage house. These were followed by hands-on field activities, such as scouting were conducted in the landscapes of Sonnenberg. Insects, diseases and cultural problems were viewed in the situations where they naturally occur.

Outcomes:

67 Individuals responsible for landscape and grounds maintenance attended this workshop

Education Day Program results based on program evaluations completed by participants.

We met our goal of reaching the landscape profession based on the answer to the prompt:

I would describe my primary work as:

Landscape Maintenance – 41%

Landscape Installation – 24%

Lawn Maintenance – 17%

Other Green Industry Profession – 17%

Some comments regarding the educational sessions follows:

Landscape Plant Insects: Paul Weston, Cornell University

- “Excellent, practical and relevant.”
- “It was good to see the life cycles spelled out.”

Scouting Cultural Problems, Jerry Bond, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County

- “It was good to learn about the thought process in diagnosis.”
- “Very informative”

Scouting Disease Problems, Brian Eshenaur, CCE Monroe County.

- “Good variety of symptoms and plant material.”
- “I learned some new things about common diseases.”

The following comments were in response to the prompt: *"One useful item I learned about that I would use on my job is:"*

- “Actual insects on growing plants.”
- “Scouting information, nutrient analysis deficiency symptoms.”
- “Sometimes treatment of an insect pest or disease is not necessary.”
- “Identification of diseases and diagnosis of cultural problems.”
- “Scouting cultural & disease problems to answer customer questions.”
- “Whether or not to control for insects is necessary. Or just leave it alone- i.e. be conservative.”
- “How to look for insects and what to do about them- and how to get certified.”

The following evaluation remarks were to the prompt of: *"Additional Comments":*

- “Very well organized and in a nice setting.”
- “Local seminars seem to be more relevant than Cornell sited seminars. Please more.”
- “Hope you have another one next year.”
- “Nice job everyone.”

